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College and School News

Lincoln University (Pa.) held its commencement on May 18. The noted poet, Carl Sandburg, was the speaker.

At the annual meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in March, Wilberforce University was granted unconditional accreditation. Beginning with this year, "The Wilberforce University Quarterly", published since 1939, will appear under the new title of "The Negro College Quarterly".

Bernard S. Jefferson, associate professor of law at Howard University, has been appointed to the staff of the national office of Civilian Defense. He will help to organize Negro groups in voluntary Federal war programs.

Dr. Frank L. McCluer, president of the Lincoln University (Mo.) board of curators and chairman of the executive committee has resigned to become delegate to the Missouri Constitutional convention.

On April 30 and May 1, Lincoln University was host to the Educational Conference sponsored by the College Section of Missouri State Association of Negro Teachers and the Department of Education of the University.

Under the direction of Prof. S. F. Collins, the summer school will have two sessions, June 14 to August 6, and August 9 to September 3.

Dr. Alfonso Elder, for the past nineteen years dean of North Carolina College for Negroes, has been named chairman of the department of education at Atlanta University. He is a 1921 alumnus of Atlanta U., with an A.B. degree, and has an M.A. from Columbia U.

The summer school will open June 7.

Commencement exercises at Morgan State College were held on May 31, with the principal address being de-



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livered by Dr. Allan Robertson, President of Goucher College. There were seventy candidates for the Bachelor's degree.

Commencement exercises were held at West Virginia State College on May 23. The principal address was delivered by Dr. Channing S. Tobias.

The Tenth Anniversary Reunion of the Tuskegee Institute Class of 1933 was held during the commencement season, May 24. P. Bernard Young, editor of the Journal and Guide was the principal speaker.

Dr. Channing H. Tobias was principal speaker at the Shaw University Commencement on May 31. Dr. L. E. McCauley, Raleigh physician, has been elected to the board of trustees.

President Howard D. Greeg of Delaware State College has announced several curricular and administrative changes, including the introduction of an educationally noteworthy Divisional organization of the college. The latter will include Divisions of Vocational Education, Social Sciences, Psychology and Education, Languages and literature, and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Divisions will include separate departments coordinated by a chairman of each division. Administrative changes include Divisions of instruction under the overall supervision of a Dean-Registrar, Student Personnel under a director, and Business Management under the Business Manager.

Hampton Institute alumni have recommended the election of a woman member to the board of trustees.

It is announced that the Institute will maintain as in the past its regular program "education for life" despite the patriotic service it is now rendering as a technical training station for enlisted men of the Army and Navy.

Principal speakers at Hampton's commencement (April 8-12) were Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President of Howard University, and Dr. Charles H. Wesley, President of Wilberforce University. Edison A. Bertrand of Brooklyn, N. Y., has been elected president of the student council for the year 1943-44. He was recently elected president of Kappa Delta, the Hampton chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu, intercollegiate honorary scholastic society, and for the past year served as co-chairman of the Student Christian Association.

(Continued on page 190)

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The Month

War: Charles Jackson French, heroic Navy mess attendant, commended for bravery by Admiral William Halsey.

93rd division on maneuvers in Louisiana.

House Military Affairs Committee now investigating the shooting of Pfc. William McRae by his commanding officer, Col. William T. Coleman, June 5 at Selfridge Field, Mich.

First Negro Marines to receive ranks of sergeant are: Edson E. Blackman, Jr., Charles F. Anderson, Gilbert H. Johnson and John T. Pridgen.

Negro fighter pilot squadron reportedly on active duty in North Africa under command of Lt. Col. B. O. Davis, Jr.

S. S. George Washington Carver, second liberty ship named for a Negro, launched May 7, christened by singer Lena Horne.

Labor: First ship built by all-Negro workers at Sun shipbuilding yards launched May 10.

Six thousand Mexicans to join imported Jamaican and Bahamian laborers.

James Harold Herman winner of "Letter of Commendation" from St. Louis Curtiss-Wright corporation for idea to speed production.

Education: Tuskegee institute accepts \$100,000 subsidy from Alabama in exchange for six seats on board of trustees.

Dr. E. C. McLeod installed as eighth president of Wiley college, May 24.

St. Augustine college (Fla.) student strikers demand removal of president E. H. Gould, white, to make way for competent Negro leadership.

Books: First novel by Carl Offord, *White Face*, published by McBride.

Victory, OWI publication explaining American war effort to foreigners, overlooks Negroes.

Arts: Leigh Whipper, veteran Negro actor, cast as Haile Salassie in film, "Mission to Moscow".

Color Line: Public hearing demanded on closing of New York's famed Savoy ballroom on "vice charges". The Savoy was closed April 28.

Missouri civil rights bill, introduced in legislature by Rep. Edwin F. Kenswil, shelved in committee without reaching the house floor.

John S. Blanton, attacked by two white Marines on a Washington-bound train, fined \$10 by D. C. judge for "disorderly conduct".

General Motors workers, Indianapolis, Ind., struck, June 5, when Negro machinists began work there.

Women: Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune honored for 38 years service in Bethune-Cookman college. Mrs. Frank-

lin D. Roosevelt guest speaker at the New York celebration, May 2.

Negro women still excluded from WAVES, SPARS and women's reserve of the Marines.

Churches: Fifth annual session of National Conference of Church Leaders held May 4-5 at Nashville, Tenn.

Crime: Pacio P. Baclan, Filipino engineer on S. S. Booker T. Washington, held by federal authorities for possessing explosives aboard ship.

Stays of execution granted Henry Daniels and Curtis Robinson, alleged rapists of a Mobile, Ala., white woman, after introduction of evidence that they underwent police "third degree".

Achievements: Thirty-nine Rosenwald fellowships awarded, twenty-six to Negroes. Roi Ottley, Florence Murray and Thomas Sancton, white, managing editor of *The New Republic*, among recipients.

House of Representatives unanimously approves bill authorizing erection of a monument honoring George Washington Carver.

Sports: "Burnt Cork", entry of comedian Eddie "Rochester" Anderson in Kentucky Derby, May 1, last in a field of ten.

Deaths: Lt. Wilmeth Sidat-Singh killed in plane crash in Lake Huron, Mich., May 9.

International: William V. S. Tubman elected president of Liberia May 4, to take office January 1, 1944.

—Constance H. Curtis

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Business Manager: GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

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Whole Number 390

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NEXT MONTH

The July issue will carry a full report, with pictures, of the Emergency War Conference in Detroit. Dr. L. D. Reddick contributes an article, "Africa in the Peace Plans".

The editor promises the last installment of his impressions gained during his recent Pacific Coast tour.

The August issue will be the 32nd annual educational number, containing photographs, statistics, news and stories about this year's college graduates.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

James W. Ivy is a teacher in the high school at Newport News, Virginia and an authority on the Negro in Latin America. He is a frequent contributor to The Crisis.

George Padmore is London correspondent for Negro newspapers and the author of "How Britain Rules Africa". Robert W. Root is a newcomer to the pages of The Crisis. His home is Des Moines, Iowa.

Editorials

Negro Bomber Crews?

IT has been announced that the 99th pursuit squadron of Negro fighter pilots has arrived in North Africa. These men, the hope and pride of Negro America, landed just too late to help in driving the Axis troops out of Africa. No doubt they will see action in the next move against Hitler.

This announcement means that the Army feels that these men are ready to fight. Although the final testing of any trained fighters, ground, sea, or air, is in actual combat, it may be assumed that the 99th is as ready to fight as any group of similarly trained white pilots. Does this also mean the Army feels that the training of Negro fighter pilots is past the "experimental" stage mentioned officially some months ago?

If this be true, if the men of the 99th and their successors in the 100th by their performances have wiped out the discouraging "experiment" stigma, then why does not the Army Air Forces go all out by training Negro bomber crews? If our lads can fly single-engined fighting planes, some of them, undoubtedly, can fly two- and four-engined planes. If they can shoot .50-calibre machine guns on the ground, they can shoot them from the turrets of a Flying Fortress. They can learn navigation and be taught to be bombardiers.

If they can fly Army planes, why not Navy and Marine and Coast Guard planes? In short, why not let young, healthy, skilled, patriotic Negro Americans give everything they've got to help win this war? Why hold them back?

Virginia Ministers Speak

THE white ministers of Richmond, Va., speaking through their alliance, have taken a significant step forward in race relations that deserves the attention of all persons, white and black, interested in interracial justice and progress.

Courageously placing their finger on a traditional "sore spot", the white ministers declared first that voting privileges should carry no element of discrimination because of race. They went on to recommend that Negroes should serve freely on juries, that colored citizens should be represented on the school board, and that the City of Richmond should appoint Negro policemen.

In the South there are no more powerful spokesmen than the white ministers. When they speak out on racial matters it may be assumed that public opinion is not far behind. Years ago students of race relations were leaning to the prediction that when a "break" came in the traditional attitude of the South on the Negro it would come in the Old Dominion state of Virginia. But North Carolina, for reasons unknown, stepped into the lead, notably in the field of education, and became known as the "most progressive" southern state on the question of the Negro.

Now the Richmond white ministers have declared themselves and Virginia takes the spotlight. If the vexing problem of the franchise can be solved, and if Negroes can take their deserved places in the civic life of the community—on juries, school boards, and as guardians of the peace—we can look to accelerated progress in Virginia and to inspiration to the rest of the South to follow suit.

Maneuvers Nail Lie

WHATEVER else may be wrong with the Negro and the Army, the trip of the Negro editors to the war maneuvers of the Third Army in Louisiana early in May certainly scotched one popular lie once and for all. There has been considerable talk that our men were not being trained to fight—not sincerely and thoroughly trained to fight. Many stories have gone the rounds about failure to teach Negroes even how to use a rifle. It has been said that the Army was only going through the motions, hoping that Negro soldiers would not make good when the test came.

One of the outfits in the Third Army maneuvers was the 93rd division, composed entirely of Negro enlisted men. About half the commissioned officers—mostly in junior grades—are Negroes. This division has been training as a unit for about a year at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Some of the units which make up the division had an additional year of training before they went to Huachuca.

The Louisiana maneuvers showed them to be well-trained in the use of all the latest weapons of modern warfare. There is not a weapon that a combat division is supposed to have and know how to use that the 93rd does not have. Military censorship does not permit too specific mention of details, but it can be said that the 93rd is using everything from pistols to 155mm artillery. They

are operating every kind of vehicle used by the army. They are using every kind of technical equipment used by any other division.

As a trained fighting outfit the 93rd ranks high. It is not for a mere layman to say that the men are "expert" or "superb" or "crack". But even a layman can see that they know their business and will deliver for Uncle Sam when the time comes. They handle their weapons with familiarity and ease. During a pause between maneuver problems, the tank battalion, stowed away carefully in the woods, was devoting itself to cleaning its guns, getting ready for the next "battle". The men went about the tasks as surely and confidently as a civilian hanging a picture.

The War department broke precedent by inviting the Negro press to the war games, but must realize by now that it was a master stroke. The trip enlightened the editors, helped to educate some of the top Army personnel, and—most important—encouraged the enlisted men by showing them the civilian world was genuinely interested in their progress.

Wipe Out the Poll Tax

IT is to be hoped that before this appears in print the House will have once more passed the anti-poll tax bill. Plucked out of committee by 218 signatures on a discharge petition, the bill was scheduled to come up for consideration in the House on May 24. Although the membership of the House has changed slightly since a similar bill was passed by it last fall, unless a major shift takes place, the present bill should get enough votes for passage after the usual hot, but short, House debate.

As with all bills of this nature, the real battle will be in the Senate, for here the debates are not short, but unlimited. Last fall the Senate permitted a shameless filibuster on the bill. Ten or twelve men held up everything, determined to talk until the anti-poll tax bill was withdrawn or dislodged on a technicality.

The filibuster is not democratic. A tiny minority using this weapon can block the overwhelming majority. The task of the voters is to make their senators understand that the majority of the people want the anti-poll tax bill passed, and want no filibuster. The faith of the world in us, in this war for democracy, is not strengthened by our stubborn refusal to remove a barrier which keeps ten million citizens from the ballot box.

When He Was Knee High

By Robert W. Root

JACK got started to school a week late that year because his folks had not been able to move any earlier. That made it all the harder to become acquainted, for the strange boys and girls already had their friends. Accordingly, Jack played alone at recess, bouncing a little red ball forlornly against the side of the school building to amuse himself. By the hour, lonesomely, he did this, and sometimes he got to thinking that all the other kids, and the teacher too, hated him. Because he was a shy sort of boy, he could not understand, and he was very lonely.

Then finally Tommy and he got to be friends, and this was the thing that saved him and made everything happy that winter. They even got so they walked to school together, and in the late soft-yellow afternoons, laughing and hollering, they chugged through the snow like steam engines. One week they made a snow man; later they built a fort and put water on it to fix it as hard as stone.

This new friend, Tommy, was a wild, lonely sort of a boy. If one could have forgotten the dirt and unkemptness of his curly blond hair, he might have seen a kind of poetic beauty in the boy's delicate, haunted pallor; but Tommy was tough, notwithstanding—tough for a boy of seven. He moved in a nervous, hungry way, and he was thin and pale and looked as if he did not get enough to eat. The neighbors said he was bold, harum-scarum and loud, and they blamed his lazy mother. Not that she could have done anything with him, for he did not mind her, nor anyone. And he swore, too.

Because of all these things, Jack's mother would have preferred if her boy had not taken a liking to Tommy, and yet she had a deep understanding of her son's loneliness. She would not have raised a finger that might have caused him pain about it, because she knew that this was the only way it could be, and knew too that even this could not last. So long as they lived in a neighborhood such as they did, he would be thrown together with boys of this kind, without escape. And in some such neighborhood as this must they always live so long as Jack's father was only a janitor—lucky he was to have a job at all. Sometimes she wished that Jack had had brothers or sisters, or that there were others of his age and kind here for him to play with, and yet she knew the hopelessness of that, too.

The story of Jack and Tommy, real buddies, who could think of nothing but the day when it would at last be warm enough to go swimming

Tommy's mother, on the other hand, hardly knew of the friendship, if she even cared. Her main interest in the boy was to have him serve her, and in her shrill, harping voice she ranted at him the few hours he was home. Naturally, he was home very little. Whenever he could slip away, he did, scampering direct to Jack's for relief. Then, at last, there was "fun" for him. Indeed, the friendship which grew between them was a great one, planted of the loneliness of both. Wherever either went alone, he met the cruel names and jeers flung by the older boys. But together, partners, they withstood everything.

At the time of the first January thaw, when the melted snow and sooty slush brimmed the gutters, and when it seemed to boys of seven that spring was already upon them, Tommy first mentioned swimming.

"Jeez," he said, poking and splashing with a stick in the clear-flowing gutter water, "I'll be glad when it's warm enough so's we can go swimmin' again. D'ya know how to swim?"

"Sure, I can swim, all right."

"Where d'ja useta swim?"

"We swum in the river—it was a great big muddy ol' river, but it was sure swell on a hot day."

"What's its name?"

"The Skunk—it went right through the middle of town."

"Never heard of it," Tommy said disparagingly. "I betcha we got a better place to swim here than you've ever saw before."

"I doubt it. The Skunk uz a keen ol' river."

"Who wants to swim in a river, anyhow? Jeez!" Tommy splatted his stick down hard, and the grey water gushed up and oozed into the spongy snow. "We don't even have a river, but you oughta see the pool this ol' town's got." He spoke fondly and proudly. "Jeez, it's a great big ol' pool—as big as the whole school building, I bet. Jeez, you can hardly see across it. An' deep—man oh man, is it deep! It's the swellest place to swim you ever saw."

"Yuh," Jack said. "That's swell all right, but it'd cost too much. I'd rather

swim in the river, where it don't cost nothin'."

"Hell, it only costs a dime," Tommy shot back in his falsetto profanity. "You can swipe a dime easy." But he knew Jack had been taught not to swipe, and added, "Shucks, anyway, they have free days every little while—I don't know how of'en, but pritty of'en—an' you can get in without payin' a single penny."

Jack's eyes glittered, great and brown. "Boy oh boy, if it's free, then it sure must be swell. I bet the water's nice." He could afford to be conciliatory. "A river ain't so good, really, 'cause there's so much mud, it gets all over yuh."

"This is keen all right. I about spend all the time out there in the summer. Jeez, it won't be long now."

And they began to plan and dream how fine it would be.

BUT after January, there was February, gnawingly cold, and it seemed that summer was frozen away for good. March was little better, gusty with frigid winds and chill rains. But April and May were warm in Illinois that year. The green started pricking up through the dead grass early, and Tommy called their minds back to the pool again. Each day, it seemed to get hotter and hotter in school, and they could hardly wait until vacation. Towards the end of April, they started going barefoot, and now it seemed very close.

"Man oh man," Tommy said. "Pritty soon, man oh man."

A Saturday in early May he could wait no longer. It was a hot day, close as a blanket, the sun high now, bright in a dazzling blue. Tommy came over to Jack's, a faded pair of maroon swimming trunks and a watery-grey towel over his arm.

"Let's go out to the pool. I think it'll be open now," he said.

Jack was cautious. "Is it free today?"

"Hell, yes, I think it's free today all right," Tommy said confidently.

Jack's mother, however, was unenthusiastic about her son's swimming so early in the season.

"It won't be open yet, honey. It's still too cold," she said.

"Cold!" Jack cried with scorn. "Golly, it's hot. Anyway, we can go out and try, anyway." At last she saw the logic of this argument and dug out his moth-frayed swimming suit. Secretly,

to be on the safe side, Jack took some pennies from his bank.

It was a long road, white in the sun and burning and dusty under their bare feet. But through the heat they had visions of the sweet and soothing coolness of the water when they should get there. For blocks they walked, and then, at last, Tommy said it was just around the bend ahead, and here they saw a farmer, plowing. He pulled his horses up at the fence row and hailed them.

"Where you goin', boys?" he asked.

"The pool," Tommy answered, uncommunicatively.

"You're a bit early, ain't you, son?"

He was a big, beef-shouldered man, and he took off his straw hat to wipe a great handkerchief around his sweat-matted hair.

"Maybe," Tommy said sullenly. Jack didn't say anything, and they walked on.

It was too early, all right. There was not a drop of water in the pool, and there was no one else around. They pressed their noses into the heavy-wire fence and saw how the pool lay, a great boxed and slanting pavement, empty and white in the sunlight. Aimlessly then, silent with disappointment, they walked around it in the squishing clean sand which had slopped through the fence. It seemed hot enough that someone would fill it and let you go swimming.

"Hell," Tommy said, and they started the long road back.

At the bend, the farmer was drawn up to the fence, waiting. His horses were swishing their tails, and their harnesses jiggled as they shivered their skins to scare off the flies.

"Ain't any water in it yet, is there, boys?" the farmer asked, jovially.

"Ain't any yet," Tommy said, unsmiling.

"I hardly thought there'd be any yet," the farmer said. He slapped a fly from his thick arm with the reins. "It will be a little piece before they come out and fill her up."

"How long do you suppose it will be?" Tommy asked, wistfully now.

"Oh, they usually open it on Memorial Day, as I remember."

"Is that very long?" Tommy asked.

"It's a little better than three weeks yet."

Tommy dug his grey toes dejectedly into the white road dust. Three weeks seemed an awful long time to wait.

"Is it free that day?" Jack asked. It was the first thing he had said to this strange man.

"I think so," the farmer said. "Yes, I'm sure of it. It's a city pool, and it's always been free the first day ever since it opened, I think."

And so they had to go back, now, for

awhile, simply to dreaming about swimming in the pool.

"Say, Mamma, when is Memorial Day?" Jack asked when they got back home.

"It's the thirtieth," she told them.

The three of them looked up the thirtieth on a calendar and figured it was three weeks and four days off.

"Jeez, at least we know it's gonna be free that day," Tommy said with a sudden optimism, a flash of his nervous, hungry smile.

"That's something, all right," Jack said.

In the days that followed, then, Jack and Tommy were together almost constantly. They played soldiers and Indians, cops and robbers, and finally modern war, with tongue-trilled machine guns. The days were lush and warm, and they played hard, forgetful of the heat. But when, exhausted by the care-free round together, they lay down in the finger-lovely grass, again they thought of swimming.

"Jeez, wouldn't it be nice to get in that ol' water now, an' wash all the sweat off an' get good 'n' cool?" Tommy would say, dreamily.

"Boy, you said it," Jack would reply.

They lay, winnowing the grass cool between their fingers, plucking it, sucking and biting it.

"Jeez, after that ol' pool opens, I'm gonna spend all my time out there," Tommy said. "I'm gonna jump in that ol' water an' splash around an' get good 'n' cool. An' then when I get tired, I'll go up an' lay in the sand an' just enjoy the sun. I'm gonna get myself a real tan this summer. Jeez, you should have seen me last summer." He pulled his sleeve up high above his thin, white biceps, streaked with the greys of dirtiness and poor food. "I'm gonna get that all tanned up again really like something." He cast an appraising eye at Jack's arms. "You got a pretty good tan already," he said.

"Uh-huh," Jack said noncommittally.

"Well, you watch me, and I'll have as good a one. Jeez, I bet I get a lot tanner than you."

AND so at last, after great imaginings, the long-awaited day arrived. Right after breakfast, they hunted out their swimming clothes and towels again and set off for the pool. The day was starting with determination towards the thick sirupy heat of July, but they were glad—all the better for swimming! The trees were green and fluttery with shadows, and all down the street, before they got to the dusty country road, there were flags, red-white-and-blue, brisk and dancing. It was a real holiday, and with more of his nervous jerkiness than usual, Tommy hurried gaily along. Because of the certainty of swimming at

the other end, the hot white road was not so long now. At the bend, there was no farmer with his team, but the corn was coming up all around, in floppy green blades, rowed, criss-crossed, infinitely patterned.

And now they heard the noises of the pool and saw the glint of the water. The fountain was gushing, white and foamy, they saw, and kids were playing around in the water, splashing and gurgling, yelling and screaming, in a reverberating pool-sound. They began to run and, eagerly, they scampered around the fence in the sand.

"Do you know . . . how to get in?" Jack cried, his breath jerking with his steps. This was all so fine and gay that he, the river-swimmer, was a little frightened.

"Sure . . . I've been here hundreds o' times."

"That's good . . . 'cause I sure don't know where to go." Jack's voice broke off. Then, "Where do we undress?"

"In that white building. Jeez, you saw it the other day."

"Yah," Jack said. "But it seems like it would cost something."

"Oh, quit worryin'," Tommy cried, exasperated. "It won't cost nothin'. You heard what that guy told us."

"Um-huh."

There were bare, unpainted boards leading through an open fence-gate to the bath house. Tommy slowed now, a little uncertain, for all his hard-boiled manner. "We just go up there to the guy by the baskets and get our tickets from him," he explained. It was a stall to give him time to screw up his courage.

"Yah, you go ahead, and I'll come right after you."

"No." Tommy would have none of that. "We'll go up side by side—it will be better that way."

The man, a great, pink-faced fellow in a white shirt with rolled sleeves, glowered down at them. In his huge, hairy fists on the counter he held a tight roll of tickets.

"Look, buddy," he started to tear off a ticket for Tommy, but he was talking to Jack, "you don't want to go swimmin' here."

Rooted with fright, Jack wilted, and then shrank back a step. In a rush, Tommy's bravado melted too, and he weakened. Once in retreat, they were in rout, and they slipped back to the gate before they stopped.

"Jeez, what'd he say to yuh?" Tommy asked.

"He said I didn't want to go swimmin'." Jack was trembling. Watching out of the corner of his eye, he saw that the great pink-faced man had stepped back among the rows of baskets to talk to a woman.

"Is that all?" Tommy said with deri-

(Continued on page 188)

Maneuvers Show 93rd Is Ready

FOR the first time in its history the War department on May 5-9 had as its guests fourteen editors and staff members of top Negro papers to have a first hand look at the war maneuvers of the Third Army in Louisiana. Component part of the Third Army is the 93rd division where the entire enlisted personnel is colored. About half the commissioned officers, mostly in junior grades, are also colored.

For three and a half days the editors were given free rein in the maneuver area and all were convinced by actual visit to the "combat zone" that the 93rd was well-trained in all the modern weapons of warfare. The men climbed into foxholes, inspected machine gun nests, threaded their way through barbed wire entanglements, saw well-camouflaged

trench mortars, witnessed a battery of 105mm howitzers laying down a barrage, saw anti-tank guns strategically placed to stop the tanks of the opposition, watched tank destroyers on fast-crawling half-tracks move into position, drove through long files of infantrymen moving up in the rain to the "front," stood by as ambulances brought in "wounded" men to be cared for by the medical battalion stations, ducked their heads when the bombers of the opposition roared low to "strafe" roads and field command posts, and inspected the light observation planes used by three Negro fliers and one white pilot in artillery spotting.

The men of the 93rd moved smoothly and efficiently in the job of defending a railhead, handling their weapons with

familiarity and ease. The 93rd has every weapon needed by a combat division and the men are very proud of their outfits, especially the tank men.

The trip to Louisiana was arranged by Truman Gibson, Jr., acting civilian aide to the Secretary of War. Distinguished passenger with the newspapermen and Mr. Gibson was Brig. Gen. B. O. Davis. The visiting men were extended every courtesy by Col. W. C. DeWare, public relations officer of the Third Army, and his staff. High point of the visit was the luncheon May 6 with Major General Fred W. Miller, commander of the 93rd division, and some of his staff members. It was the consensus of the editors (shared, it was learned, by all men of the 93rd) that Maj. Gen. Miller is the right man in the right place and that in him our men have a leader who is proud of his men, fair to them, and determined that they shall be second to no division in the army.—R.W.



Flying from Chicago to a Louisiana air base in a four-motored B-24 Liberator bomber converted for transport use the editors blink in the bright southern sun: Carl Murphy, *Afro-American*, Baltimore; Robert Ratchliffe, *Atlanta World*; Milton Bledsoe, *Kansas City Call*; Eustace Gay, *Philadelphia Tribune*; Dan Burley, *Amsterdam News*, New York; P. Bernard Young, Jr., *Journal and Guide*, Norfolk; Ben Burns, *Chicago Defender*; Mr. Gibson; Roy Wilkins, *THE CRISIS*; Brig. Gen. Davis; Louis E. Martin, *Michigan Chronicle*, Detroit; George Coleman Moore, *ANP*; Ollie Harrington, *Peoples Voice*, New York; William G. Nunn, *Pittsburgh Courier*; and William O. Walker, *Cleveland Call and Post*

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U.S. Signal Corps Photos

MANEUVERS IN LOUISIANA. Top: An anti-tank crew poised ready for action as it awaits the firing order during maneuvers of the Third Army in Louisiana. Bottom: Advance scouting party looks over the terrain in an amphibian jeep which carries its occupants on water as well as land

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U.S. Signal Corps Photos

Top, left: Tank men keep a sharp lookout for "enemies" as their light tank moves to a new position. Top, right: Maj. Gen. Fred W. Miller points out positions of regiments to Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis. Bottom, left: A soldier, using his helmet as a wash bowl, is shaved by one of his friends. Bottom, right: Sgt. Sander Barnett, of Los Angeles, receives a teletype message while on the "battlefield"

Industrialized Soviet Backs Red Army

By George Padmore

HOW is it, many people are asking, that the Soviet Union, despite the fact that its chief arsenals, European Russian and the Ukraine, were destroyed, is able to produce at this decisive moment a superiority of arms and war weapons? The answer lies in the fact that the Soviet Union is the only country in the world where erstwhile subject territories of imperialism have been transformed from backward regions into highly industrialized centers.

Long before the Russian revolution, Lenin stressed that the granting of the right of self-determination to the subject races and oppressed nationalities was in itself merely a gesture innocent of meaning unless they were given assistance in exercising the right in practice. This was possible only if they were rendered aid in achieving a higher standard of civilization as speedily as possible. The essential prerequisite for this condition was the control of the State authority by the proletariat, who would abolish capitalism and socialize the means of production; that is, the land, the factories, the mines, and so forth. Lenin never regarded the establishment of a proletarian dictatorship as just an end in itself but as the necessary circumstance for bringing about the fraternity of peoples and nationalities in building the new civilization along socialist lines.

Hence the consolidation of the various administrative units into a multinational state, the U. S. S. R., provided the political instrument through which the Bolsheviks were able to tackle the economic and cultural problems inherited from Czarism. However, the transition towards industrial development presented formidable difficulties. The superstition and ignorance of centuries had to be uprooted; the struggle against abject poverty and disease had to be attacked. Nomadic tribes had to be encouraged to settle; age-old religious and tribal feuds had to be adjusted. But the outstanding problem raised by the necessity to push forward industrial development in a country overwhelmingly agrarian was that of the creation of a skilled working class.

Such a class hardly existed outside the old industrial cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov, and Odessa. In the former colonial regions of the Czarist empire there were oppressors and oppressed, feudal landlords and serfs, but not a middle class and a proletariat. The Russian capitalists had been content to exploit such wealth as was easily

War-time production is being carried on in sections of the Soviet Union which, until a few years ago, were backward farm districts and waste lands. Planning and cooperation, says this author, have wrought the miracle

accessible, and had not developed the natural resources of Central Asia even to the limited extent that British imperialism has done in Africa and India.

The Cities Grow

Within the Soviet Union as a whole the urban population at the outset was some 19 per cent. The proportion in the Tartar Republic, for instance, was 11 per cent, in Kazakstan it was 8 per cent. In the Autonomous Republics of the Chuvash and the Yakut in the R. S. F. S. R. some 5 per cent only. And even these and other outlying urban populations were largely Russian. Little more than 300 out of every 10,000 occupied persons in the Soviet Union were engaged in industry. This figure dwindled to tapering point in the Central Asian and Trans-Caucasian territories, where it ranged down from between 85 to 9. Here again it was made up chiefly of emigrant Great Russian workers. Russian workers in Turkmenistan accounted for more than a quarter of the Russian population there, scarcely 2 per cent of the Turkmans being industrial workers. Even in the Ukraine, among the most industrialized of the subjected territories, there was little difference in the proportions between urban and rural laborers. The town workers were mainly Great Russian, the Ukrainians almost exclusively peasants. Moreover, Central Asia, because of climatic and soil conditions was sparsely populated. Even in 1939, the combined populations of the S. S. Republics of Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kirghizstan, Kazakstan and Turkmenistan numbered only 13 millions; less than the British West African colony of Nigeria, which has a population of 21,000,000.

In such a situation it was left for the Bolsheviks to do for the Soviet East what capitalism has accomplished in Africa, India, and elsewhere; that is, to break down tribal and feudal society, but to go further than imperialism and raise up the primitive races from tribalism and the pre-capitalist forms of social production to higher standards of life with-

out passing through the hazards of the intermediary capitalist stage.

The process of proletarianization went on simultaneously with the industrial revolution in these Asiatic territories. This was first started with the assistance of the Russian proletariat of Moscow, Leningrad and other advanced sections, who were used by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government to create cadres from the native populations of the backward national regions. These cadres were then used to train further numbers of indigenous workers in skilled labor. Besides the expert technicians and some skilled operatives from the existing Russian proletariat and from abroad, chiefly Americans, vast numbers of unskilled Asiatic workers were recruited from the indigenous populations.

Riches from the Earth

The Gosplan set up in 1921 made a survey of the natural resources of the whole of the vast area of the Soviet Union and the redistribution of industry so as to utilize the wealth of the land at the source. No longer were the Asiatic sections of the country to be skimmed to feed the industrial centers of the erstwhile dominant people, the Great Russians. Wherever riches could be wrested from the earth, there the industries would be placed. This is in marked contrast to the system of Imperialism, which uses colonial areas as agrarian hinterlands for the benefit of the industrialized metropolitan country, thereby keeping the natives backward and poor.

Never before in history was there such a gigantic program of planned development. To enable the former colonial areas to catch up quickly with the more industrialized parts of the Union, the largest proportions of the capital investment was allotted to them. Inasmuch as these Asiatic territories are fruitful sources of raw materials, the Soviet Union as a whole would gain doubly from this policy. The more backward areas would be brought to the level of the more advanced, so paving the way for the further progress of all, while at the same time they would be laying the basis of those heavy metallurgical industries of which the Union stood most in need. In helping forward the level of development amongst the former colonial peoples, the Russians were also helping themselves. The good of one verily reacted to the good of all, as demonstrated today.

The policy of devoting the greater

aggregations of capital investment to the former colonies had its reward in the enormous excess of output in the basic industries over the estimates of the Five-Year Plan. Such results are impossible of achievement under Imperialism. Certainly nowhere in Africa could one envisage the establishment of production on the Soviet scale or basis, all redounding to the common good. In Africa, the proletarianization of the native peoples has gone hand in hand with the expropriation of land, the imposition of head tax and the opening up only of mining industries and the building of railways and docks. These fields of capital investment as well as large-scale farming offer the best profit to the European capitalists who dominate the blacks. But such raw materials as are drawn from Africa are carried to Britain to feed the metropolitan industries, leaving Africa barer and poorer. The same applies to India.

The innovation of the Soviet policy of advancing the industrialization of the remoter national territories was made possible only because it had abolished capitalism and dissolved the previous oppressor-oppressed relationship between the imperialist metropolis and the colonial periphery. No detailed analysis is required to observe the immediate advantages of establishing industry at the source of raw materials. There is the avoidance of waste, and of unnecessary transport; there is greater speed in producing the finished article from the basic raw materials.

Industry in the East

During the second Five-Year Plan (1932-37) Soviet industry definitely shifted eastwards, and these Asiatic regions achieved a greater industrial development than the western sector. The non-ferrous metal industry of Kazakhstan is fast becoming the chief center for the whole of the Soviet Union. Here are found 60 per cent of the Union's lead resources, 50 per cent of its zinc. This republic ranks first in the Soviet Union in copper, lead, nickel and zinc. In fact, Kazakhstan is extremely rich in mineral resources. Deposits of gold and other rare minerals like antimony, mercury and cobalt are found in considerable quantities in the Altai region. There is a lead-zinc industry at Chimkent, which is indispensable to the Soviet economy, and lead refineries also at Ridder and Ust-Kamenogorsk. A large chemical combine has been established at Aktyubinsk, in Northern Kazakhstan, which also has important chrome deposits. Rubber, salt, and phosphorous industries are highly developed in this republic, and for the first time its coal resources are being worked. Resources of coal and oil in this territory rank third

for the entire Union. The coal mining center is at Karaganda, which produces more than 8 million tons a year, as against 90,000 tons ten years ago.

It was in this republic that the great railway project, the Turk-Sib (Turkistan-Siberian railway) was completed within four years. Kazakhstan, "the country of desolate steppes and no roads," was laid with 7,000 kilometres of railroad, traversing the length of it. This railway, opened in 1930, together with branch lines, connects the basic industrial and agricultural districts of the republic. More railways have been built here than in any other central Asian republic. When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, skilled workers in vast numbers were drafted from the Ukraine and Donbas to these areas. Chimkent, for example, formerly a nomad village, is now the capital of South Kazakhstan with a population of 74,000. It mines two-thirds of the country's lead and zinc.

Central Asian Industrialization

Of the central Asian republics, Uzbekistan is the most thickly populated, and Tashkent, the capital, is taking first place among industrial towns in this part of the Union. Its population of 585,000 is approaching that of Pittsburgh, to which it may be compared. Near Tashkent were discovered the Angren coal-fields, and about fifty miles from the town, at Almalyk, are located the biggest copper mines, for Uzbekistan is the third largest producer of copper in the Soviet Union. It also has large deposits of wolfram and molybdenum, besides resources of oil, much of which is being refined locally. In 1938, the output of

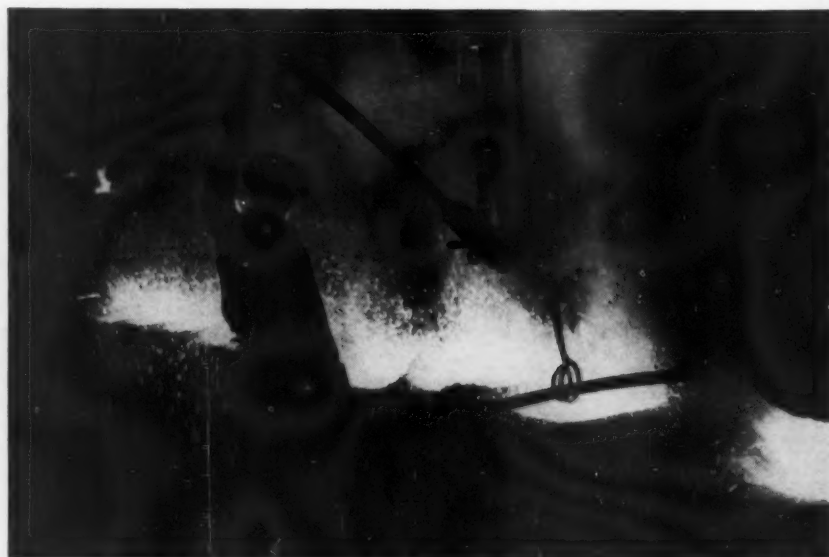
crude oil was 250,000 tons.

The Trans-Caucasian republic of Azerbaijan, with Baku for its capital, is one of the richest oil producing regions in the world. Before the Revolution, this oil was exploited by foreign interests and little of the benefits or profits went to the native inhabitants. Today the Azerbaijan people own the oil wells and refineries themselves, running them in the interests of the whole country.

Chuvashia, which is the Autonomous Republic nearest to Moscow, possessed in 1913, a total of 29 industrial enterprises, primarily lumber and food concerns. While the main trend of development is still towards the lumber and food industries, headway is being made in chemical and non-ore mineral industries.

Central Asia is the great cotton growing center of the Soviet Union. In the days of the czar the cotton was just car-reid off in its raw state, as with that of the great African cotton growing regions of Sudan, Uganda and Northern Nigeria, which cannot produce even a handkerchief. The aim of the Five-Year Plan was to build up the cotton industry in the cotton growing districts, so that new spinning and weaving combines at places like Tashkent, Stalinabad, Ashkabad and Fergana help to turn the raw material into yarn and cotton piece goods. Cotton growing is the major industry of the region, especially in Turkmenistan, and fertilizers for the fields are now for the first time being manufactured in Central Asia itself. This is as the result of the erection of a big hydro-electro-chemical plant at Chirchik, near Tashkent, shortly before Hitler

(Continued on page 179)



Sovfoto

A worker pouring molten steel into molds at the Magnitogorski plant, located in the southern part of the Ural mountains. It is an outstanding example of the industrialization of areas of the Soviet Union which are rich in natural resources

First Ladies of Colored America—No. 10



MRS. MARCELLA DUMAS HUGGINS, president of the Louisiana Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, is a native of Natchez, Mississippi, and received her education at Straight college, New Orleans; Howard university and Swarthmore college, Pennsylvania. She was a teacher in Baton Rouge, La., where she married Dr. H. Horne Huggins. An outstanding worker for social reform, Mrs. Huggins was instrumental in the establishment of a project in Baton Rouge to give employment in white collar fields to college graduates. With the aid of a staff of five, Mrs. Huggins conducted one of the most successful vocational surveys in that region. Working through the Louisiana Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, she secured over 5,000 signatures on a petition for a home for delinquent Negro youth, which is soon to be set up. The mother of three children, Mrs. Huggins is a member of the Louisiana Federated Women's Club, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal church.



MISS ANNE BROWN, who created the title role of Bess in the George Gershwin musical, "Porgy and Bess", is at present appearing on the concert stage in both the United States and Canada. During this, her first concert season, Miss Brown has been booked for fifty recitals, a record equalled by few established artists. For six consecutive summers she was a guest soloist on the famous Gershwin programs at the Lewisohn Stadium in New York, appearing more times than any other artist. She has sung with the world famous orchestras conducted by Leopold Stokowski and Hans Kindler. Miss Brown studied at Morgan college, Baltimore, Maryland, and has done work in her field at the Graduate School of the Institute of Musical Art. At the Institute she won the Margaret McGill scholarship which entitled her to three years' tuition. A native of Baltimore, she is the wife of Dr. C. C. Pettit and the mother of a three-year-old daughter, Paula



MRS. BESSIE J. BEARDEN, deputy collector of Internal Revenue in the third district of New York, was for many years the New York representative of the Chicago Defender and first president of the Colored Women's Democratic League. In 1922 she was appointed to the local school board, number 15, Board of Education, New York; the first colored woman elected to such a position in the city. She served both as chairman and secretary of the board. Mrs. Bearden is national treasurer of the Council of Negro Women, a member of the executive board of the New York Urban League and a member of the NAACP. She is connected with the Harlem branch of the Civilian Defense group and the USO, and has been elected to honorary membership in Phi Delta Kappa and Lambda Kappa Mu sororities. A native of North Carolina, she was educated in the public schools of Atlantic City, New Jersey. She attended Hartshorne Memorial college, Richmond, Va., and graduated from Virginia Normal and College institute. The wife of R. Howard Bearden, she has one son, Romare, who is serving with 372nd Infantry in New York City



MRS. MAYME EVELYN WILLIAMS is editor of "Our National Family", the official organ of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. A resident of Miami, Fla., she formerly lived in Fort Smith, Ark., where her husband, Charles L. Williams, Jr., was principal of Lincoln high school. While in Arkansas, Mrs. Williams taught school and served as president of the Arkansas Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. She was a member of the Arkansas Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, the State Nutrition and Vocational Guidance Committee and the Arkansas Teachers' Association. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, she attended the University of Cincinnati and St. Francis de Sales academy. She is an honor graduate of both Wilberforce university and Arkansas state college. Mrs. Williams is a life member of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She is the mother of twin daughters, Paula and Phyllis.

Soviet

(Continued from page 174)

invaded the Ukraine. Now this industry is able to clothe the Red Army.

Important for all this, of course, was railway construction across Central Asia, which was planned to link up production and industrial centers. Stalinabad was connected with the Central Asia railroad, and the trackage laid covered several thousands of miles.

Cooperation the Keynote

For Central Asia, all these achievements in industrial construction are particularly distinctive, since prior to the Revolution it was entirely devoid of any kind of industry. But before any plans could be undertaken, geological surveys were made under the Gosplan, revealing the important and valuable range of minerals existing in this region. Large deposits of sulphur and potash were found in Turkmenistan; bismuth, gold, and platinum in Tadzhikistan; and many rare metals in Kirghizstan. Then the geographical allocation of industry had to be planned, which, in view of the fact that raw materials derived largely in the Soviet East, meant that heavy industry had to be transferred there.

The Urals-Kuzbas combine was formed to utilize the vast reserves of coal at Kuznetsk in Siberia and link it up with the iron ore of Magnitogorsk in the Urals, each area exchanging with the other the raw material which it lacked. Trucks from Kuznetsk taking coal to Magnitogorsk returned thence with iron ore so that both districts, making full use of their own natural resources, with the aid of each other, maintained heavy industries in two distinct areas, to the benefit of the whole Union. Such collaboration as this is absolutely impossible under private capitalism. The Kuznetsk-Karaganda-Magnitogorsk resources are now being used exclusively for the Soviet Union's war industries. This is the Red Army's main arsenal.

Agriculture in the Soviet Union has been subject to the same thorough revision and development as industry. In fact, the metamorphosis which has taken place in the outlook of the great mass of Asiatic peasants and nomads is perhaps greater than that of the industrial worker. For it must be remembered that where the principle of private property obtains every peasant is a potential landlord. Therefore, the effort to collectivize the land, so essential to the Soviet regime with its socialist objective, met with considerable sabotaging opposition from the wealthier peasants (kulaks), particularly as the circumstances forced its adoption by ruthless



Harvesting the grain on a large collective farm in the Kiev region of the Ukraine

Sovfoto

measures from the Soviet administration.

When the time comes for the African territories to be collectivized under a socialist regime there will not be the great difficulty of overcoming an individualistic peasantry, as there was in the Soviet Union. The native peoples of Africa still find it difficult to understand the system of capitalistic individual tenure which the European is trying to impose upon them. Even against the law, they still in the majority of cases work their lands communally, and will not have to be taught to forget a system which they have not succeeded in acquiring.

Land Plus Machine

Naturally, with the collectivizations of farming there went hand in hand an increase in the sown area. Uzbekistan grows well over 50 per cent of the Union's raw cotton, and large-scale irrigation schemes, such as the Fergana canal, are constantly enlarging the area under cotton. The Fergana valley is, indeed, one of the great natural gardens of the world, and produces excellent crops of cotton, rice, and fruit, which is also dried on a large scale in local factories. Silk is also produced on quite a large scale, and there are cotton and silk mills at Tashkent.

Inasmuch as machinery plays a leading part in the work of collective farming, even the Central Asian peasants can be classified today as proletarian. The machine and tractor stations, which are the most important means of aiding the national policy of the Union, are the strongest proletarian influence on the agricultural populations of the eastern nationalities. They supersede at a bound all the archaic and social survivals of the semi-feudal era and strike directly at backwardness. Farming, through the medium of machinery, draws the millions of peasants into new ways of living, and

in its results proves to them the superiority of the iron tractor over the wooden plough. Not only has it resulted in an agrarian revolution, but has changed the psychology of the people from an individual to a collective outlook.

State farms have played and still play a most important part in reconstructing agriculture in the backward national regions. They are organized principally on land which had remained uncultivated for centuries, and have changed the areas into cultural bases in a comparatively short time. They have become the economic cultural centers for the surrounding districts, and it is not too much to say that they have literally transformed the economy of the national regions. By 1939 there were 3,957 state farms occupying an area of 168,000,000 acres.

These farms in particular play an important part in the development of technical crops and cattle breeding. The specialization of agricultural areas introduced by the Soviet develops the agriculture of the national regions in accordance with their different natural peculiarities and the industrial needs of the territory in relation to raw materials. In the former desert land of the Ararat valley of the Caucasus, an irrigation system now produces large supplies of cotton. One scheme, from Lake Sevan, "is turning many hundreds of square miles of semi-desert into rich, green farmland . . . Around Batumi, a place of heavy rainfall, the opposite is taking place. Dangerous swamps have been drained and are now covered with groves of citrus fruits."

In the more backward regions of the east and of Central Asia, the livestock raising problem was closely connected with the effort to settle the nomadic peoples, who predominated in particular in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, and a number of other places. The new

(Continued on page 186)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Emergency War Conference: Will Rogers, Jr., United States Congressman from California, will present the Spingarn Medal to Judge William H. Hastie at the closing meeting of the emergency war conference to be held in Detroit, Mich., on "The Negro in the War for Freedom", June 3-6.

The Spingarn Medal, which goes this year to its twenty-eighth winner, is being awarded to Judge Hastie for his refusal to temporize with racial bigotry and discrimination in the armed forces of the United States. Hastie resigned from his post of Civilian Aide to Secretary of War Stimson last January 31 in protest against the policy of the War Department on the Negro. The presentation of the Award will be at the huge Olympia Arena on Sunday afternoon, June 6.

Among the many prominent figures also participating in the June 6 meeting will be Phillip Murray, CIO president, who will be introduced by R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO head. Dorothy Maynor, famed soprano, will lead in the singing of the national anthem. Responses to the conference call already indicate that

this audience will be the largest gathering in the association's 34 years of existence.

Second Baptist church will be the scene of the six conference sessions, including the opening meeting Thursday evening, June 3, when Walter White will deliver the key note address. At the Saturday afternoon session, delegates representing the NAACP's nation-wide membership of more than 200,000 persons in 600 branches, youth councils and college chapters will adopt and issue their Statement to the Nation.

Among the topics to be discussed are "The Negro in the Armed Forces"; "Manpower, the Right to Work for Victory"; "The Press, the Movies and the Radio"; "The Church as a Force for Victory", and "The Securing of Democracy at Home".

Newport News School Case: Three school principals who were among the leaders in a successful court fight to equalize the salaries of colored and white teachers in Newport News, Va., were not re-elected to their positions by the board of education at its May 14 meeting.

No reason was given by the board for firing L. F. Palmer, principal of Huntington high school and a member of the system for 23 years; T. Roger Thomson, principal of Booker T. Washington elementary school, in the system 21 years, and J. R. Picott, principal of John Marshall elementary school, in the system 11 years.

In addition, the board "passed over" the names of three teachers who may or may not be re-elected later. They are: Ethel Pannell, James W. Ivy and Eric W. Epps.

Indignation ran high among some citizens as soon as the news spread. The consensus is that the board of education, which has fought bitterly against the equalization of salaries, was taking revenge on Palmer, especially, and on the others. The final action in the courts took place last January when the board was ordered to equalize salaries. This is the first time the board has had an opportunity to show its displeasure at the outcome of the case.

Mr. Palmer has an unblemished record as a school man and as a citizen. He is active on many interracial committees



Pancas of the St. Louis branch. Front, left to right: Mesdames Frenchy Wood, Gladys F. Redmond, Bernice Bush, Pearl Maddox; Sidney R. Redmond, branch president, Mrs. Audia Roberts, Dr. W. W. Yerby, Mrs. Josephine Bedford, Lorraine Pugh, Mrs. Edmonia Robertson and Mrs. Beatrice Kyle Jones. Second row: Dewey Dismuke, E. A. McKinney, Mrs. Claretha Barrett, Evelyn Roberts, Mrs. Sallie L. Oliver, Clarissa Boone, Mrs. Mae Dailey, Mrs. Julia Rowell, Rev. Fred A. Hughes, Leonard J. Harris. Third row: William C. Copeland, E. C. Turner, Eugene W. Wood, Oscar S. Ficklin and A. W. Lloyd

and boards and in many civic efforts. His high school has been rated as one of the best in the state of Virginia, white or black.

The Newport News branch of the NAACP held an indignation mass meeting Sunday afternoon, May 16. Students of the high school quickly organized a strike for the following day. The Richmond branch held a mass meeting on May 16, at which time a resolution was drawn up protesting the dismissal of the men. On May 18 a committee of prominent citizens called on Mayor Darden and informed him of the school board's action:

Florida Teacher-Plaintiff Fired: Charles H. Stebbins, plaintiff in the teachers' salary case in West Palm Beach, Fla., has been ousted by the West Palm Beach board of instruction. In a letter to Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel who is representing Stebbins in the suit to gain equal pay for teachers in that county, it was stated that the school authorities had failed to reappoint the plaintiff.

Stebbins alleges that the Negro trustees of district No. 9, in which he teaches, demanded the removal of a colored principal, but that this could not be accomplished because the principal had the approval of the county school board. However, Stebbins states, the school board bargained with the Negro trustees not to recommend the principal for reappointment if the trustees would not ask the reappointment of Stebbins. In this manner the school board was able to dispense with the services of the plaintiff in the salary case without it appearing that they had fired him because of his activities in the case.

Thurgood Marshall and S. D. McGill, the latter an attorney for the Jacksonville NAACP, are the lawyers who filed suit for readjustment of the pay of Negro teachers and sought equal pay for equal work by whites and Negroes. The case, with Stebbins as the plaintiff, was begun late in 1941 and is now pending in the U. S. district court of the southern district of Florida.

Louisiana Board Admits Bias: The school board of New Orleans, La., admitted in a letter to the NAACP, May 10, that before May 6, 1943, the application of salary schedules resulted in less pay for Negro teachers doing work equal to that done by whites.

On March 29, Eula Mae Lee, Negro school teacher, filed a complaint against the Jefferson Parish school board. The case, which is being handled by Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, and A. P. Tureaud of the New Orleans NAACP legal staff, is now pending in the U. S. district court for the eastern district of Louisiana.

The answer filed by the school board states that on May 6, 1943, the salary



One of the outstanding features of the NAACP War Conference in Detroit will be the singing of Dorothy Maynor at the high closing meeting, Sunday afternoon, June 6

schedule was abolished in compliance with the request of Miss Lee. At that time, the board says, a new resolution was adopted in which the salaries of all teachers, white and Negro, would be paid in accordance with their qualifications and ability with no consideration of race.

The NAACP observed that the school board's resolution to base salaries on qualifications and ability determined by the superintendent would not necessarily insure any equalization of white and Negro teacher pay, but might be a way to perpetuate salary inequalities.

Seek Probe of Alabama Abuses: Immediate investigation of prevalence of mistreatment of Negro soldiers stationed in Alabama was sought by the Washington bureau of the NAACP in a protest

sent Secretary of War Stimson, May 5.

Stimson was informed of the recent shooting of a Negro corporal by a bus driver in Montgomery. According to a news clipping from the *Montgomery Advertiser*, which was obviously slanted in the bus driver's favor, it was admitted that the driver knocked the soldier from the bus into the street. The only defense given by the bus driver for his shooting of Corporal Pleasant was that the corporal had drawn a knife when he got up from the ground.

The NAACP requested that this case be given immediate attention and reminded the War Department of increasing instances in the South of brutality to Negro soldiers and mistreatment of them by civilian police.

Error in Soldier Rape Trial: Argu-

ment on the case of the three Negro soldiers convicted and sentenced to death for rape in Alexandria, La., began in the United States Supreme Court, May 10.

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, revealed, May 6, that the brief filed in behalf of the United States by the Solicitor General and the Assistant Attorney General "confessed error" and completely agreed that the points raised by the defense in attacking the jurisdiction of the trial court were valid. It had been charged that the court in which the soldiers were sentenced was without jurisdiction to try them.

The NAACP did not enter the case until after the three soldiers, John Bordenave, Richard P. Adams and Lawrence Mitchell, had been sentenced. They were rushed to trial on July 27, 1942, the court appointed lawyers, the men were convicted of criminal attack on a white woman in Alexandria, La., and sentenced to death.

A petition of the NAACP attorneys for a habeas corpus writ was based on the contention that the United States government had no jurisdiction over the land on which the alleged crime was committed.

As the case now stands, the government has joined the defense counsel in urging the United States Supreme Court to answer the question of the federal court's jurisdiction in such manner as to admit that the lower court was without the right to convict the men. Technically, the men will be freed but they are certain to be re-arrested and tried again.

Legal Assistant Named: Milton R. Konvitz, a member of the faculty of New York University law school, joined the legal staff of the NAACP as assistant special counsel on May 1.

Mr. Konvitz, a member of the New Jersey bar since 1932, has been a frequent contributor to the *Columbia Law Review*, the *Yale Law Journal*, the *Harvard Law Review*, the *American Scholar* and many other national legal publications. He has served as vice president of the New Jersey Urban League, is a trustee of the Jewish Child Guidance Bureau and a member of the American Association of University Professors. His special field is civil liberties law.

"Texas Primary" Tested in Supreme Court: The question of the "white primary" in the South was placed before the United States supreme court on April 21 for the fourth time by legal counsel of the NAACP.

A petition for a writ of certiorari, filed with the court by the association lawyers, asked the following question: "Does the Constitution of the United States prohibit the exclusion of qualified Negro electors from voting in primary elections which are an integral part of the election machinery of the State and which are determinative of the choice of federal officers?"

In Texas and other states, poor Negroes and whites alike are disfranchised

by means of the poll tax. In states using the "white primary" all Negroes are effectively disfranchised. In other states such as Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Carolina and parts of North Carolina Negroes have been disfranchised by means of discriminatory registration tactics. The program of the NAACP has been aimed at all of these evils.

In 1940 final plans were made for the test case now before the courts. In 1941 the United States supreme court, in *U. S. v. Classic*, a case involving the refusal of primary election officials in Louisiana to count the ballots of certain white voters, ruled that the primary is an integral part of the election machinery, or, where the primary determines the final election, such primary is within the prohibitions of the United States Constitution.

NAACP lawyers in 1941, using the *Classic* case as the basis for action, filed the present case in the federal court in Houston, Texas, challenging the "white primary". At the trial it was established that the primary in Texas was an integral part of the election machinery of the state and that the Democratic primary determined the final election. It was also established that all white citizens were permitted to vote in the Democratic primary regardless of whether they were Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Communists or Independents.

The decision on this case pending in the supreme court will determine the fate of the "white primary" not only in



Members of the Little Rock youth council from Dunbar Junior college and Dunbar high school. Standing at the extreme left of the group are E. I. Copeland, sponsor, and S. O. Roberts, dean of Dunbar Junior college. Shirley Graham, assistant field secretary who headed the membership drive, and J. H. Lewis, principal of Dunbar high school, are shown in the center front of the group. C. H. Jones, president of the local branch is shown at the extreme right

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Texas but in other parts of the deep South where such primaries are now excluding all Negro voters.

Race Riot Rumors Scotched: Co-operation of the Washington, D. C., dailies was obtained by the Washington NAACP bureau in its campaign to scotch the recent barrage of groundless rumors responsible for increased racial tension in the national capital.

The daily papers had been following a policy of printing nothing of the rumors since their publication might only serve to spread them. The Washington bureau was able to persuade them that the situation was so serious it demanded exposure by the press. At the insistence of the NAACP, every important Washington daily has featured articles and editorials on the dangers of rumor mongering.

None of the rumors of imminent race rioting had any basis in fact but the entire city had been swept with a wave of extravagant stories and the switchboards of all daily newspapers were tied up with reports of the anticipated racial strife.

Branch News

Alabama: Memorial services in honor of four Negro war heroes were held by the Birmingham branch, April 29. Ella J. Baker, director of branches, was guest speaker at the meeting which honored Julius Ellsberry, first Birmingham citizen to be killed in World War II; Lt. Earl King plane crash victim; George Watson, hero of the African war theatre, and John Wesley Cummings, killed in action in North Africa.

The Mobile branch has extended the closing date of its membership drive for another thirty days. With the campaign under the leadership of Ella J. Baker, the branch has already exceeded a membership of 1,000 and plans, before the War Conference, to swell that number by at least 400.

Colorado: The problems arising from the war manpower shortage were discussed at the monthly meeting of the Pueblo branch, May 5. The bills to draft labor and freeze workers in certain positions were also subjects under discussion at the mass meeting.

Connecticut: Walter White, executive secretary, was guest speaker at a mass meeting sponsored by the Hartford branch, May 7. The meeting, held as part of the membership campaign of the branch, had as its theme, "What Are We Fighting For?"

A war bond rally was held, May 6, by the Norwalk branch. Dean William Pickens and Mrs. Nell Hunter, lecturers for the Treasury Department, were the main speakers.

Delaware: Delegates to the NAACP War Conference were elected at the May 4 meeting of the Wilmington branch.

Louisiana: Through the efforts of the New Orleans branch, rumors that a race riot was about to take place in that city were scotched. At a meeting held May 29, the branch drew up a statement which was released to the newspapers in the district, outlining the position of the association in regard to racial uprisings and stating that from all indications the rumors were untrue.

The Plaquemine branch, which has a

goal of 500 for the membership drive, has begun a fight to secure equal employment opportunities for Negro workers in the ship yards of that section. The branch points out that skilled workmen are held to jobs as helpers merely because of their race.

Massachusetts: The New Bedford branch has begun an investigation of the conditions surrounding the importation of Negro workers from the South into that vicinity. The inquiry will cover housing, sanitation, hours of labor and wages.

Minnesota: Co-ordinating committees from the St. Paul and Minneapolis branches are working to insure the passage of an equal rights bill. The joint committee is opposed to an amended measure approved by the House of Representatives judiciary committee but is supporting the original bill which was adopted by the state Senate.

Maryland: A post war program was sponsored by the Baltimore branch, April 28, at which time Dr. Gertrude Bussey, Goucher college professor, spoke on the international phase of post war problems.

Colored Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord,
I've got a boy,
A big, strong, black boy
Who has gone to fight in this
White man's war

He was a good boy . . . my
Boy was . . . and I'm proud
Of him . . .
For, while he didn't know where
He'd be fighting or what he'd
Be fighting for, he enlisted in the
Army . . .
And I know that he will gladly
Give his life in the
Interest of this
Country.

Father,
I know that You cannot spare
The lives of all of us
Innocent black people in this
Calamity which the white man's
Greed has brought upon
This earth . . . so, if You must,
Take my boy home . . . in Your
Keeping. . . .

But most of all Lord,
If my son must fight in
Australia or in other places
Hostile to the Negro . . . keep him
Safe . . . and make those prejudiced
Peoples broad enough to see
That although he is black . . . he is
Unselfish . . . and strong enough to
help win
A decision in that great
Battle which they, themselves,
Have proven
Unequal
To.

Amen. . . .

—WALTER G. ARNOLD

The branch reports that it is continuing its fight against discrimination in war industries in the Baltimore area with some success. A special legal committee of the branch, composed of W. A. C. Hughes, Robert McGuinn, Dallas Nicholas and Calvin Douglas, is working to discover any threats to Negro labor in the Maryland "Work or Fight" bill. All five of the men who took the Baltimore police examination, after a six week training course under the sponsorship of the branch, were successful in passing. The branch is now urging the appointment of these men to the police force.

Missouri: The membership drive of the St. Joseph branch ended recently with a goal of 350 reached. At the mass meeting, held at the close of the drive, Roscoe Dunjee, editor of the Oklahoma Black Dispatch, was the principal speaker.

The St. Louis branch reports a membership of 4,200 at the close of its 1943 campaign. Under the leadership of Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, assistant field secretary, a total of 40 workers became Pancas.

New Jersey: At the April 28 meeting of the Paterson branch a report on the success of the plans to solve the nursery problem for mothers in war industries was made. There was also a discussion of legislation of interest to Negroes now pending before the New Jersey legislature.

The membership drive of the Trenton branch closed May 18 with Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, assistant field secretary, as guest speaker. Dr. Henry L. Austin is president of the branch.

New York: The Staten Island branch began its membership campaign, May 10, with a mass meeting at which Alfred Baker Lewis, national board member, was the principal speaker. The branch plans to have at least 1,000 members by the end of the campaign, June 5.

Ohio: A total of 4,123 memberships, more than twice the number ever before attained, were reported at the end of the campaign of the Cleveland branch. The drive, under the leadership of Shirley Graham, assistant field secretary, yielded \$7,496.45. The branch has written to the president of Western Reserve college protesting the use of a biology text which presents the Negro race as an inferior group.

Pennsylvania: Prentice Thomas, assistant special counsel, was the principal speaker at the May 9 meeting of the Bryn Mawr branch which was held in Haverford. Mr. Thomas spoke on "The Right to Work."

South Carolina: A mass meeting in connection with the membership drive was held by the Columbia branch, May 2. The largest branch in the state, in the present drive the membership goal has been set at 1,500.

The annual meeting of the State Conference of Branches will be held in Florence on June 13 and 14.

Texas: The Houston branch now employs a full-time executive secretary. Lulu B. White, who was chairman of the recent membership drive which gained approximately 6,000 members, was elected to the new position by the executive committee.

Virginia: Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary, was guest speaker at a mass meeting sponsored by the Richmond branch in connection with its membership campaign. The meeting, held May 16, aided the branch's drive for 5,000 members.

The Petersburg branch recently closed a successful membership drive in which they increased their rolls from 150 to more than 400 members. Luther P. Jackson directed the drive in conjunction with Rev. C. L. Evans, branch president.

A Haitian Speaks

By James W. Ivy

ONE of the wisest of contemporary Haitian thinkers and writers is M. Louis Dantès Bellegarde, journalist, author, statesman, financier, diplomat, educator, lecturer: his has been a life rich in service and achievement. The present book* is a collection of his articles from the pages of *La Phalange*, a leading Catholic daily of Port-au-Prince. These articles cover such an astonishing variety of subjects that justice cannot be done them in a mere review. As he states in his preface, our author discusses the Haitian soul, both national and individual; the Haitian body, both that of the individual as well as the nation; and Haiti's place in international society. Some of his chapter headings are: "Nation, Race, and Culture," "The Haitian Nation," "Women and Education in Haiti," "Agricultural Life in Haiti," "Haitian Creole," "Inter-American Cooperation," etc.

M. Bellegarde begins his book by puncturing contemporary ideologies about race. He criticizes his fellow Haitians, many of whom have developed a defensive racialism as a protection against the Nordicism of the United States, as well as Hitler and his Aryans. "Our neo-racism has simply been a reaction against North American expropriation. The Occupation whipped up our national pride." There is no Haitian race, except in a cultural sense, any more than there is a Nordic race. And it is equally as silly for certain Haitians to try, with the assistance of certain Americans, to make the country a sort of "Dahomean islet of Bantu culture and Congolese or Arda religion for the amusement of Yankee tourists. . . ." Our author frankly admits the primitiveness of much of Haitian life by civilized Western industrial standards and he wants to raise the cultural and economic level of his people through education and sensibly planned work. Nor can Haiti be transformed "by rigging her out in the black shirt of Mussolini, the brown tunic of Hitler, the blouse of Stalin, or the 'G-string' of a Sussu of Guinea. These garments have not been cut to the measurements of our people." He is equally critical of those people who do not wish the Haitians to assimilate Western European culture; and this they must do if they are to sur-

vive as an independent people. "They do not wish to hear talk of French, or even Latin, culture. What is good for Walloon Belgium, Gallic Switzerland, and French Canada is worthless for Haiti. Why? Because the Haitian people are of Negro descent." These people want Haiti to remain African. "Those among us who preach a return to 'pure African traditions' are simply preparing the bed for the totalitarian powers in search of colonies and *Lebensraum*, as they say in their pseudo-scientific jargon. It is because the Sussu Negroes have preserved their 'pure African tradition' that French Guinea, with a territory of 96,000 square miles and a population of two million inhabitants, is governed, administered, and exploited by 1200 Europeans. It is because the Krus and the Mandingos of Liberia have preserved their 'pure African traditions' that 12,000 Negroes of American descent and Anglo-Saxon civilization can control a territory of 45,000 square miles, inhabited by two million 'non-civilized' African Negroes. . . ."

"Voodooism" Increases Profits

On the tendency of white foreigners especially, and recently American Negroes, to read dark, jungle atavism into even the most guileless aspects of Haitian life, our author has this to say:

"Many good missionaries have come to us from the United States and elsewhere to advise us to preserve our traditions, customs, and African cults and to burn all our bridges to Christian civilization in order that Haiti might preserve its originality: they wish our country to form a blackspot in America whose proximity will exempt them from the expense of long trips to Africa to study the arts and practices of the 'non-civilized.' And when, with the 'candid complaisance of the Haitians,' as Louis Mars says, they visit several *houmforts* and pick up a few legends about *zombis* and werewolves, they inundate the American market with a flood of *black books* on Haiti to the delight of the credulous American public, eager to bolt the most unbelievable stories of alleged Haitian savagery. But against this avalanche the efforts of a Price-Mars and a J. C. Dorsainvil are in vain; not even a Herskovits can stem the tide, because their works are too serious to please the fickle minds which make up the clientele of the Wirkuses,

Seabrooks, Loederers, Craigies and company. Just now the writers are Negro Americans—Miss Hurston, Arna Bon-temps—who, finding no elements of 'Bantu culture' at home among their twelve million congeners of Anglo-Saxon culture and Christian civilization, come to study them in Haiti."

On this same point M. Bellegarde tells the amusing story of Lady Dorothy Mills who visited Haiti in 1923 armed with an automatic because she believed she was visiting a country of savage cannibals ready to pounce on her blond flesh at the slightest provocation. The poor lady, however, was disappointed. She found no *zombis*, *viens-viens* (ghosts), or *corps sans-âme* (soulless bodies) in every garden and on every highway, but the same cultured life to which she had been accustomed in England. "An actual historic fact is the pretext for the accusation of cannibalism leveled against us, and which continues to be repeated with complaisance." People readily believe this misconception, apparently, because the Haitians are Negroes and they really do not believe that Negroes can be civilized. As our author points out, no one for a moment thinks of smearing the Hanoverians with the epithet "cannibal" merely because the "Hanover butcher" in '24 killed and ate six children. Czechoslovaks have not been dubbed cannibals because twenty-six persons, both men and women, killed and ate some five people after making them up into a goulash. Voodoo doctors sell love potions in New York and New Orleans, but foreigners do not write therefore of the United States as a land of voodoo doctors. Our national pastime is lynching but it is the rare foreigner who writes of this country solely in the terms of frying blackamoors. On the other hand, our author calls his fellow Haitians attention to the condition of their cities. " . . . One is usually led to judge the civilization of a country by the appearance of its cities, the cleanliness and the comfort which they find therein. It is difficult for a foreign tourist to admit that the Haitian people are civilized when he sees a goodly portion of them stagnating in wretched hovels or rambling around semi-naked, or garbed in disgusting rags, in the streets of the capital."

One Language Needed

Our author also writes wisely of Creole, the language of the Haitian

* *Haiti et ses problèmes* (Haiti and Her Problems). Par Dantès Bellegarde. Montreal, Canada: Editions Bernard Valiquette, 1942(?). 297pp. \$1.00 Canadian.

masses, versus French, the language of the classes. He favors the extension of French in the primary schools rather than Creole. For Haiti to make her national tongue Creole would mean her isolation culturally and otherwise from the main stream of Western civilization, which her people should assimilate. French is not a mere literary tool, but a key to the best works of the human mind. He writes too on Haitian agriculture, Haitian finances and revenue, on Haitian society and the elite. "Many people in Haiti confuse the 'elite' with 'society'."

Running all through this book is the truth that the degree of complexity and perfection which a civilization attains depends in the last resort, not upon race and skin color, but upon the economic base and the development of its powers of production. M. Bellegarde, therefore, wants the economic base of Haitian life widened through education, improved agricultural methods, trades, wise foreign commerce, and international cooperation. Haiti was the pioneer in Pan-Americanism. It was Alexandre Petion who aided Simon Bolivar with money, munitions, and men in 1816-1817; it was Anténor Firmin who expounded the doctrine of an Antillian Confederation in his *Letters from Saint-Thomas* in 1910; and it was Furcy-Chatelain who in 1915 argued for a genuine Pan-American union as a protection against the Colossus of the North.

Every American should read this book. It will serve as a corrective to the usual tripe written about Haiti and its people. Most foreigners write about Haiti with ignorance and a formula instead of sympathetic knowledge. Such writing falls into the category of what Luis Alberto Sanchez calls "Exoticism and Imperialism" and is the stock in trade, the "industry of the journalist traveler" eager to justify the exploitation of weaker peoples. M. Bellegarde has a gift of speech and original thought; his prose is limpid, beautiful, in the best tradition of French clarity and thought. His book is candid, penetrating, brilliant, and the author exhibits a most amazing erudition.

"When you start planning for the whole world, you have to count the whole world in."—Dr. Margaret Meade, anthropologist.

The best book buy is still THE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA — Entertaining, Educational, Sensational!

Only \$2.50 from The Crisis Book Shop, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Book Reviews

MINORITIES AND FREEDOM

BROTHERS UNDER THE SKIN.

By Carey McWilliams. Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1943. 325pp. \$3.00.

THE DISCOVERY OF FREEDOM.

(Man's Struggle Against Authority). By Rose Wilder Lane. New York: The John Day Co., 1943. XV+262pp. \$2.50.

Brothers Under The Skin has been written by a man with a conscience. Mr. McWilliams suffers because American democratic preachments, so far as the non-white races are concerned, do not square with American "democratic" practices. We still have a system of bi-racialism which operates on the American myth of "equal but separate" arrangements for the various colored groups in this country. The arrangements separate but they do not give equality. We profess to be fighting for democracy and equality and freedom abroad and yet deny its benefits to millions of our own citizens—Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese—merely because they made the mistake of being born with the "wrong" skin pigmentation. And there are more non-white groups in the United States than the average white citizen is aware of. For within the borders of continental United States we have 12,865,518 Negroes, 3,500,000 Mexicans, 361,816 American Indians, 126,947 Japanese, 77,514 Chinese, 45,563 Filipinos, 2,405 Hindus, and 1,711 Koreans. Our colonies of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Alaska, the Panama Canal Zone, and the Virgin Islands likewise have large colored and mixed-blood populations. We have on a whole done much better in our colonies in our treatment of the colored races than we have on the mainland.

Many factors explain this. In Puerto Rico the Spanish tradition of incorporating the mixed-bloods into the dominant group still prevails. In the Virgin Islands it is the lack of a large resident white population and the persistence of the race-equality tradition of the Danes. In Hawaii its the large mongrel population itself, the remoteness of the islands from the mainland, and the labor policy of the sugar barons who have been more concerned with cheap labor and huge profits than ethnic purity. In Hawaii there has never been even the slightest challenge to the power of the sugar barons by a non-white group. Hence they can afford to be rather tolerant ethnically speaking.

"In the very nature of things," writes the author, "we cannot pursue one policy on the mainland with respect to Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese and still a different policy in Hawaii." Most of our allies are colored and we cannot expect them to believe in the sincerity of our democracy if we are going to continue to exclude almost sixteen per cent of our citizens from its benefits merely because their skins happen to be swarthy. Axis propaganda, especially that of the Japanese, is already making very effective use of these mocking paradoxes of our so-called democracy.

The central problem of race in America is, of course, that of the Negro. There are more of us than any other minority group. We have been here longer. We are more thor-

oughly American. And the racial restrictions for controlling minority groups bear more heavily upon us than the other non-white groups. Mr. McWilliams points out that "It was with the Indian that our patterns of 'color-reaction' and 'color-behavior' were first conditioned." Refinements of the technique were worked out later on the Negro and they are now used whenever the majority wants to keep a colored minority in "its place."

Our author devotes a chapter to the problems of each of the colored minority groups beginning with the Indian and concluding with the Negro. His last chapter gives an "Outline for Action." His first suggestion is that Congress enforce those rights already guaranteed by the Constitution. He also suggests that Congress pass "an all-inclusive federal civil-rights statute," a sort of "Fair Racial Practice Act." Our author believes these might be workable at this time because of the "great upsurge of democratic sentiment" created by the war, because the Federal government is intruding itself more and more in all phases of our national life, and hence federal action would not be regarded as "meddling," and because of the partial success of the FEPC and the accomplishments of the NLRA. He says he does not expect to abolish prejudice and discrimination overnight, but these, he feels, would be steps in the right direction.

Mr. McWilliams suggested solutions seem to me too highly juridical. Nor are they likely to succeed in the face of the present trend toward bi-racialism which we note everywhere in this country. We have a thoroughly segregated Army and Navy. The quasi-governmental agencies such as the USO and the Red Cross are also segregated. And the drive against the FEPC has already emasculated that agency. Everywhere the tendency seems to be to freeze the Negro in his present pariah status. There is no infallible touchstone for the problems of race in America. Basic changes can only be made as we change American ideology on race and the problems of race. George Schuyler's recently organized Association for Tolerance in America is taking a step in the right direction when it propagandizes the common white man in an attempt to change his racial ideology.

In closing, isn't our author being somewhat American when he classifies South America among the predominantly white continents? Out of the estimated 120,000,000 people in South America, hardly more than twenty million could be generously classified as white. I note this too: "For example, Mexicans are generally listed in the census as 'white persons,' and there is no doubt that the classification is ethnically correct." Surely this is far from correct when we remember that more than ninety per cent of Mexicans are Indians and *mestizos*. But read the book. White Americans especially should read it. It is written with intense fervor and sincerity.

Mrs. Lane's *The Discovery of Freedom* discusses another aspect of the centuries old "unfinished business of democracy." The gist of her book is man's age-old struggle against authority. "Very few men have ever known that men are free. Among this earth's population now, few know that fact." For six thousand years man has believed in a pagan god called Authority. And as long as this belief held sway man never released his energies to work efficiently to supply himself with food and shelter. Yet man is free and he is free by right of his birth, not by the concession of authority. This is a truth every Negro should keep in mind in his struggle for integration into American life. Civilization and the concept of property have done more than any two other things to keep man in thrall to authority: the authority of government, the authority of religion, the authority of history. Mrs. Lane believes there have

been three revolts against this servitude. The first attempt is really unknown but our author thinks it might have started with the early Israelites. The second began with the Moslems under the tutelage of Mohammed. The third has hardly begun but its beginnings are first discerned in the American Revolution and the creation of "the American system."

Mrs. Lane's book is a curious mixture of erudition, insight, metaphysics, and oversimplification. She is a presbyter instructing us in the basic principles, and like most preachers and teachers in order to drive home her moral truths she has had to oversimplify what is at bottom a very complex problem. Or rather problems, for freedom is not one problem but many. Hence Mrs. Lane writes as a *simplicista* and her book has in consequence the usual shortcomings of *simplicismo*. Here is one little detail. As she interprets the Civil War, it was not fought over the issue of Negro slavery at all but over tariffs and state rights. The poor Negro never enters her picture at all. She also ignores in her elucidation of the "American tradition" the truth that there are basically two American traditions; one of tolerance, liberalism, and freedom; the other of oppression, intolerance, and race hate, and the two traditions have always been parallel.

JAMES W. IVY

Soviet

(Continued from page 179)

use of machinery in farming, the collectivization, and the establishment of state farms has delivered these lately nomadic peoples from the extreme hardships of their former existence. In Kazakstan alone, some 200,000 people of nomadic origin were settled on state farms during the first Five-Year Plan.

The whole Soviet system has revised and completely altered the social status of the people of the former colonial territories. Before the Revolution, most of the land was held by the Orthodox Church, the autocracy, and large Russian landlords. It is not remarkable that as the largest single owner of land, the Church had a vested interest in saving the Tsarist Empire, and lined up with the reactionary forces when the cry of "Land to the peasants!" went up. In

Moslem regions where the beys reigned supreme and the people were as serfs, the native landlords have been eliminated and co-operation between the people is the new note in the Soviet East.

Schomburg Collection Gift

The original manuscript of the recently published biography of George Washington Carver by Mrs. Rackham Holt (Doubleday, 1943) has been given to the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public Library. This manuscript and the galley proofs with the author's corrections will be displayed at the Schomburg library, New York City, through June 15. Also shown are the galleys of Richard Wright's *Native Son*, and the original letters of Booker T. Washington, Paul Laurence Dunbar and Frederick Douglass.

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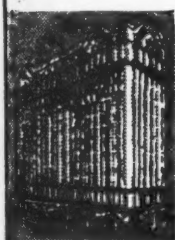
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(Continued from page 169)

sion. "You should sass that kind back. Just tell him to go to hell. Come on—I'll show you."

Supported by Tommy's bravado, Jack walked back hesitantly to the counter, and the big man came out of the shadows. He tore off a ticket and gave it to Tommy. Then he looked at Jack, and there was no smile now as there had been the other time.

"Say, kid," he said. "I thought I told you you couldn't go swimmin' here."

Jack shivered with horror and embarrassment and clutched his little towel-bundle. "I got a little money," he said, faintly, the blood gone out of his voice. "I'll pay for it."

The man scowled down at him, his great pink face now rosy with exasperation.

"Look, don't you have any brains?" the man said. "We don't want a nigger swimmin' with white people in this pool, for money or no money."

Bloodless and pithless, without strength, without hope, Jack stood shaking. That vile and incomprehensible word again! He trembled but he did not understand.

Tommy, clutching his ticket, hesitated a moment before the judgment from this man. Then, afraid of this inexplicable thing too, he deserted and ran, his pale grey feet patting on the naked boards into the dressing room.

"By God," the man turned and muttered to the woman, "you can't understand the guts of these high-yella bastards—from the time they're knee high to a grasshopper."

Jack heard the words as he stepped back, wheeled, and fled down the burning, white boards and through the sand. He scampered around the fence and then, looking back fearfully, he slowed and stopped. For a little while, clutching his bundle in his brown hand, he pressed his nose against the heavy-wire fence to watch how they splashed and shouted. And he knew, now, at last, that swimming here had all been a dream, knew too that Tommy was gone, cut away by a word, never to come back. Then he turned from the fence and went back along the hot white road, alone.

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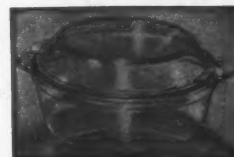
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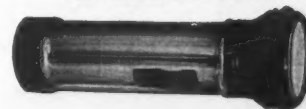


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College and School News

(Continued from page 164)

Under Prof. William M. Cooper, Hampton summer school will be held from June 22 to July 30, and the nine-week course will end August 20.

Travelling on a Rockefeller Foundation sponsored study-tour, Miss Rita Miller, chairman of the Division of Nursing at Dillard University, is now at Toronto University, beginning a month's study of selected collegiate schools of nursing in Canada and the United States. This year Dillard began a collegiate school of nursing with a five-year course leading to the bachelor's degree and the diploma in nursing.

Miss Juliette Lee, instructor in the Division of Nursing has been awarded a General Educational Board Fellowship for a year's post-graduate study at Columbia University.

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This organization came into being to remove the great stigma of poverty and charity from race people in the hour of distress. The farseeing promoters believed that if they could secure the cooperation of a sufficient number of race people who would pay weekly premiums from 5c up, they could provide relief to them during the too frequent periods of disability and the too early deaths of many of their numbers. Throughout the years, by the most rigid economy in operation and handling of these small weekly premiums, this Company has brought about a condition where the humblest and poorest citizen, through his own industry and self-help, can now be free of the blighting hand of charity.

During its 50 years of operation this Company has had among its officers and representatives, as it now has, many of the outstanding men and women of this State and the District of Columbia. Through its various offices and divisions have gone men and women into every profession and educational and business activity among race people throughout the nation.

This Company has pioneered in buying or erecting modern office buildings and has purchased each year the maximum allowance of War Savings Bonds—it now owns more than \$500,000 of Federal, State, City and County Bonds and first lien mortgages on race properties, and also over \$500,000 in office buildings and other properties held by the race within its territory.

The present Officers and Board of Directors are, Messrs. Jas. T. Carter, Pres. & Gen'l Counsel, B. A. Cephas, Vice Pres., Dr. J. M. G. Ramsey, Vice Pres., W. A. Jordan, Secretary-Manager, J. E. Hall, Jr., Asst. Secretary-Manager, W. E. Baker, Treasurer, A. C. Ellis, Chas. N. Jackson, Dr. J. M. Newman, W. E. Randolph and Percy Wilson.

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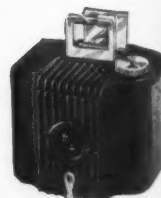
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"The white race has been guilty of insufferable snobbery in its dealings with colored races. It was a major aim of the Church to bind in one fellowship folk of various races. The Church cannot scrap that purpose."—Rev. Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president of Union Theological Seminary.

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LETTERS from the ARMED SERVICES

Monthly Prize: \$25 War Bond

The CRISIS announces a new feature to begin with the July issue: Letters from the Armed Services.

For the best letter each month a \$25 War Bond will be given as a prize.

If an account of Negroes in this war is to be written, including all the heartaches, prejudices, triumphs over obstacles, brave deeds, skilled work, and just plain philosophy of the men and women who make up our host in uniform, then it must be written by the Negroes themselves.

Already we have seen that the ordinary publicity on the war has neglected our men. It has glossed over their special hardships. It has ignored—except in rare instances—their deeds.

According to the Office of War Information, there are now about 500,000 Negroes in the armed services. They have a story to tell.

The CRISIS invites them to tell that story to be preserved in a running, per-

manent record of their adventures, good, bad, and indifferent. There are many complaints. But there are also other stories, more cheerful, more encouraging. We want both sides.

The letters do not have to be in Oxford or Harvard English. They just have to say something worth saying. We are more anxious to know what our men and women see and feel than in whether they use the right word at all times.

The CRISIS will not carry anonymous letters as such. Every letter must have a signature and address, but in printing same, upon request, we will use a pen name. Please tell us whether we may use your name and address. If not, give pen name, but you must sign your real name and address for our information.

This feature is open to members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Red Cross staffs, Army nurses, WAACs, and Merchant Marine.

Address letters to

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lighter and victory quicker, funds of policyholders of this Company have been liberally invested in War Savings Bonds. Employees of the Company are also buying war bonds and stamps through its Pay-roll Allotment Plan.

Make Their Future Secure

Commencement time is here! Many sacrificing mothers and fathers will swell with pride when their offsprings graduate. Those who have wisely prepared through life insurance and savings to continue the education of their children will find no difficulty in doing so.

SOUTHERN AID SOCIETY OF

VIRGINIA, INC. for fifty years has been a bulwark of strength in the insurance field. It has co-operated with this Government in all wars during the half century of its existence. It has paid promptly all just claims, and will continue to do so, thus helping to make the future of our boys and girls secure.

SOUTHERN AID SOCIETY OF VA., INC.

Operating in Virginia and District of Columbia

HOME OFFICE: Third and Clay Sts., Richmond Va.

LIFE, HEALTH AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE AT LOW COST

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